

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Owner of Puyallup transmission firm sentenced for theft of sales tax**

**OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 18, 2002** — The owner of a Puyallup automotive transmission repair shop was sentenced Wednesday after pleading guilty to felony theft of more than \$110,000 in sales taxes he collected on car repairs.

Irvin L. Anderson, 46, owner of Rayman Northwest Transmission, made \$101,000 in restitution prior to his sentencing by Judge Katherine M. Stolz in Pierce County Superior Court. Stolz ordered Anderson to serve 30 days of community service and make a further \$65,629 in restitution to cover remaining unpaid sales tax plus interest and penalties.

The case began when a Department of Revenue agent noticed that the company was doing business even though it had not filed tax returns for several years. The agent tried to contact Anderson repeatedly, but Anderson ignored the inquiries. The Department referred the case to the Financial Crimes Division of the Attorney General's Office, which conducted an investigation then filed the charges earlier this year in cooperation with the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Honest businesses and the general public are the victims of this kind of fraud, said Will Rice, acting director of the Washington State Department of Revenue.

"Customers who pay sales tax expect it to be used to provide public services such as education and public safety, not to line the pockets of dishonest businesses who can then undercut honest competitors," Rice said. "We will not tolerate such behavior."

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